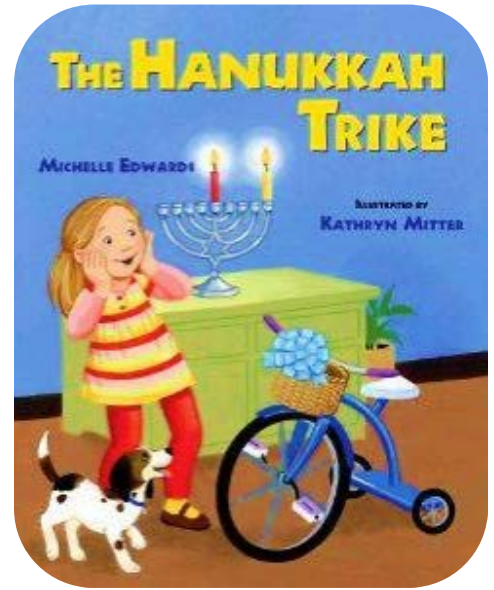


## The Hanukkah Trike

By Michelle Edwards

### Program Focus

Age group: Ages 2-5  
 Time frame: 45-60 minutes  
 Central value: Hanukkah Theme Nights



### Synopsis

**The Hanukkah Trike** is a sweet, simple story which is well-suited for children ages- 2-5. Through its bright illustrations and straight-forward text, the book teaches about several customs and traditions of Hanukkah (making latkes, playing dreidel, lighting the menorah). Best of all, the book contains a simple, developmentally-appropriate retelling of the Hanukkah story.

Not only does the book provide excellent descriptions of Hanukkah rituals, but it also contains a plot with which young children can easily identify. Young Gabi Greenberg, the heroine of the book, loves the trike which she is given on the first night of Hanukah. When Gabi falls on her first attempt to ride the bike, she becomes quite frightened, and momentarily considers abandoning her quest to master bike riding. With her mother's help, Gabi recalls the courage and persistence of the Maccabees, and decides to try again. Soon she is "speeding down the sidewalk", filled with the bravery and joy of the Maccabees."

### Goals

- Help parents discover more meaningful, values-based methods of celebrating Hanukkah
- Allow parents and children to decide upon several theme nights which they would like to try observing in their home

### Submitted by

Vivian Newman – Vivian@hgf.org

# Plan in advance

## Prepare Candle Art / Hanukkah Theme Night Activity

### Materials

- Large pieces of white paper (9 x 12 or larger)
- Hanukkah candles
- Pallets of water color paints or liquid food coloring diluted with water
- Paint brushes and bowls of water for rinsing
- Menorah shapes cut from colored construction paper
- Paper candles (designed to fit into menorah shape)
- Glue sticks
- Magic markers
- Copies Hanukkah theme nights page for parents (attached)

## Prepare Hanukkah Family Shields

### Materials

- Thin cardboard
- Scissors
- Stapler or tape
- Decorative materials (stickers, paints, sponges, etc.)
- Pens, pencils, markers

## Prepare Edible Menorahs

### Materials

- Bananas
- Pretzel sticks
- Paper plates

## Prepare Human Menorahs

### Materials

- One small step stool
- Flames cut from yellow construction paper
- Red, orange, and blue crayons

# Introduce with an activity

## Make Candle Art / Hanukkah Theme Nights

### Intro

*Today, we will be drawing with candles and using paints to help us create a beautiful Hanukkah decoration. Not only will these menorahs make wonderful wall hangings, but they will also tell us about some special things that we can do at home in order to make Hanukkah celebrations extra special.*

### Directions

1. Lay white paper on table and ask children to scribble/draw on their paper with a candle.
2. Next, instruct children to paint over their paper (and the invisible candle marks) with water color paints (white lines will appear, wherever the child has drawn with the candle).
3. As the children work, hand out the Hanukkah theme nights list to parents. Have them select one or two that they are interested in trying at home.
4. Have parents write the names of their chosen theme nights on paper candles.
5. Using glue sticks, attach the paper candles to a construction-paper menorah.
6. Once the water colors have dried, the menorah (with its attached candles) may be glued onto the crayon/water color paper.



## Hanukkah Theme Nights: Parent Page

Believe it or not, the traditional rituals of Hanukkah have little to do with the giving and receiving of presents. The list below contains suggestions for making each night of Hanukkah special (without the use of presents.) Please select one or several nights which you would like to try celebrating at home. . Feel free to create your own theme nights!



Select a paper candle and write the name of a chosen theme night on the candle. Using a glue stick, attach your candles to a paper menorah. When your child's candle art has dried, help your child attach the menorah (complete with theme night suggestions) to your child's colorful candle painting. Be sure to hang your wall hanging in a place in your home where all can see. Happy Hanukkah!

<i>Book Night</i>	Read Hanukkah books and stories
<i>Art Night</i>	Make Hanukkah decorations, presents, cards, etc.
<i>Cooking Night</i>	Make latkes, sufganiyot (doughnuts), pretzel menorahs
<i>Tzedakah Night</i>	Wrap presents for the needy, draw cards, drop the gifts off at a collection site
<i>Phone Night</i>	Call various relatives and wish them a happy Hanukkah
<i>Music Night</i>	Sing and dance to Hanukkah songs
<i>Light Night</i>	Take a walk in your neighborhood; see how many different kinds of lights you can find
<i>Game Night</i>	Play Hanukkah games (dreidel, Hanukkah bingo, find the hidden Hanukkah candles, pin the candle on the menorah, etc.) Or regular board games and card games
<i>Hanukkah Memory Night</i>	Spend time recalling ways in which you or friends have celebrated past Hanukkahs. Make a Hanukkah video or scrapbook.
<i>Friends Night</i>	Invite one or more families to join you in the lighting of the menorah
<i>Movie night</i>	Watch a Hanukkah, Jewish, or Israeli themed movie (Shalom Sesame-Hanukkah, Rugrats Hanukkah, Lights, Hanukkah at Bubbie's House, etc.)

# Read the story

Before reading the book, show “real- life” examples of the ritual items depicted in the book and explain their meanings:

- **Menorah**- a special type of candle holder which we use on Hanukkah. We use one special helper candle, called the Shammash, to light all of the other candles. Each night, we add one more candle to our menorah.
- **Dreidel**- a spinning top that we play with on Hanukkah containing a different Hebrew letter on each side.
- **Latke**- a special potato pancake that we eat on Hanukkah
- **Trike**- a bike with pedals and 3 wheels

## Encourage Participation

- Make an extra copy of the book and cut out some of the prominent pictures and scenes. Attach a piece of Velcro to the back of the picture and stick to a flannel board. Use these cut outs to help you tell the story.
- Ask children to pantomime Gabi’s actions (lighting candles, spinning a dreidel, tasting a latke, riding a bike, washing and cleaning up the Temple, etc.)



## Discussion Questions

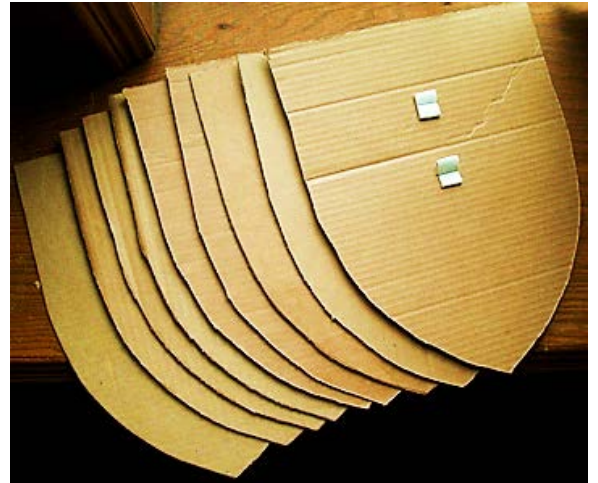
1. How do you think Gabi felt after she fell off of her bike?
2. When Gabi lit the candles, she learned about a mean king named Antiochus who lived long ago. In what ways was Antiochus mean? What did he say?
3. How might the Maccabees have felt when Antiochus said “No more celebrating Jewish holidays, no going to synagogue, and no praying to one G-d?”
4. How did the Maccabees feel when they returned to their Temple and discovered that it was dark, dirty and messy? What did they do?
5. Gabi thinks that the Maccabees were very brave. What does the word “brave” mean? How do you think the Maccabees were brave? How was Gabi brave?
6. Can you tell us about a time when you were brave? Were you ever afraid to do something, but then found a way to do it?
7. What were some of the special things that Gabi and her parents did to celebrate Hanukkah? Did you and your family pick some special activities to try on Hanukkah? What will you do in your home on Hanukkah?

# Follow Up activities and resources

## Make Family Hanukkah Shields

### Directions

1. Have an adult cut out the shape of a shield from the cardboard.
2. Cut out a small handle-shaped piece of cardboard and staple or tape to the back of the shield.
3. Have children decorate the front of the shield.
4. When children are done decorating, jot down a list of times in which each member of the family exhibited bravery.



## Make Edible Menorahs

### Directions

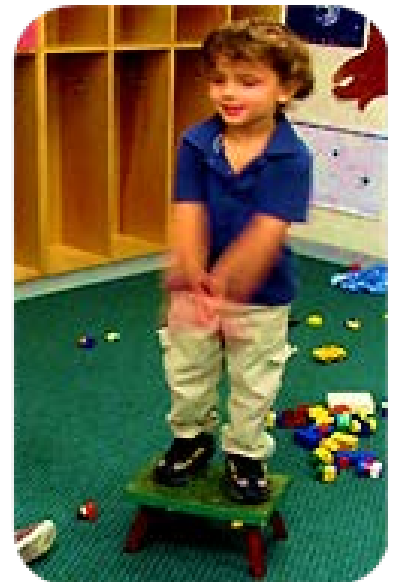
1. Peel the banana and slice it in half (the long way). Lay it on the paper plate.
2. Have children gently stick the pretzel sticks into the banana to create menorah candles.
3. Add raisins to the pretzels for flames



## Construct Human Menorahs

### Directions

1. Pass out yellow paper flames to children. They can color their flames with the crayons if they wish.
2. Select one child to play the role of the Shammash.
3. The Shammash begins the game by standing on the stool. He/she carefully steps down from the stool and walks around, lightly tapping children on the head.
4. When a child is tapped on the head by the Shammash, he/she raises the paper flame and places it on top of his/her head.
5. The Shammash continues to tap the children on the head until every flame has been raised.



## Organize an Oil / Candle Scavenger Hunt

Hide little jars of oil throughout the room-(These oil containers can be purchased on-line from many different Judaica web sites. A box is somewhat expensive, but it will supply you with enough jars so that every family will be able to find one. Alternatively, fill just one baby food jar with oil and hide it. To avoid disappointment, hide Hanukkah candles as well, so that everyone will be able to find at least one thing.

## Act Out the Story of Hanukkah

Provide Children with Costumes and Props which they can use to act out the story of Hanukkah. (The Roman soldiers can dress in helmets and armor and can be given balls of newspaper to throw around the Temple. When the Maccabees arrive, they can spend time gathering up the balls of paper ,thereby cleaning the Temple, and placing candles in menorahs.



# Resources for parents, teachers, families

## Nurturing the Family

Following the program, try to e-mail each family who attended the event. Provide families with the following web-sites, which will enable them to effectively carry out their selected theme nights.

### Hanukkah Theme Night Ideas

<http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog/index.php/archives/4001/eight-ideas-for-hannukah-themed-family-nights/>

<http://pjlibrary.org/pj-blog/index.php/archives/2058/eight-ideas-for-hanukkah-nights/>

### Hanukkah Songs

[http://www.chabad.org/multimedia/media\\_cdo/aid/797113/jewish/Chanukahs-Greatest-Hits.htm](http://www.chabad.org/multimedia/media_cdo/aid/797113/jewish/Chanukahs-Greatest-Hits.htm)

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/chanukah/>

### Hanukkah Crafts

[http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/hanukkah\\_crafts\\_for\\_kids.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/hanukkah_crafts_for_kids.htm)

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/holidays/chanukah/>

### Hanukkah DVD's

[http://www.jewishvideo.com/KID\\_1.HTM](http://www.jewishvideo.com/KID_1.HTM)

<http://www.judaism.com/search.asp?nt=gZbZdU&sctn=629>

### General Hanukkah Info

<http://www.jccathisnewmonth.org/5769/Kislev/kislev.asp>

<http://urj.org/learning/teacheducate/childhood/holiday/>

### Hanukkah Recipes

[http://judaism.about.com/library/2\\_cuisine/recipes\\_holidays/bl1\\_chanukah.htm](http://judaism.about.com/library/2_cuisine/recipes_holidays/bl1_chanukah.htm)

[http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article\\_cdo/aid/102819/jewish/Chanukah-Recipes.htm](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article_cdo/aid/102819/jewish/Chanukah-Recipes.htm)

